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11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
12 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
WESTERN DIVISION

13 CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY) Civ. No. 2:15-cv-04378-MWF/JEM
14 and LOS PADRES FORESTWATCH,)
15 Plaintiffs,) **DEFENDANTS' STATUS REPORT**
16 v.) **REGARDING PROCEEDINGS ON**
17 UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LAND) **REMAND**
18 MANAGEMENT, et al.,)
19 Defendants.)
20)

21 Per the Parties' Settlement Agreement, Defendants hereby submit their
22 quarterly written report regarding the status of proceedings on remand in this case.
23 See ECF No. 42-2 at 2.
24

1 On May 3, 2017, this Court dismissed the case pursuant to the Parties’
2 Stipulation of Dismissal and Settlement Agreement. ECF No. 43. As part of the
3 Settlement Agreement, the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) agreed to prepare
4 appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) documentation to address
5 the deficiencies identified by the Court in its Order granting in part and denying in
6 part Plaintiffs’ and Defendants’ cross-motions for summary judgment. ECF No. 42-2
7 at 2. BLM also agreed to make best efforts to post the cover page of any application
8 for permit to drill (“APD”) in the Bakersfield decision area within three days of
9 receipt. *Id.*

10 Since filing its last status report on August 3, 2018, BLM has continued to post
11 the cover pages of APDs submitted to the Bakersfield Field Office within three
12 working days of receipt on the agency’s e-Planning website:
13 https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do. BLM has
14 continued to wait at least 30 days after posting the cover page on the ePlanning
15 website before approving an APD. BLM also posts records regarding APDs at
16 <https://reports.blm.gov/>. This website allows users to identify pending APDs and
17 review the status of APDs nationwide.

18 Also since its last status report, BLM published in the Federal Register on
19 August 8, 2018 a Notice of Intent for Potential Amendment to the Resource
20 Management Plan for the Bakersfield Field Office, California, and to Prepare an
21 Associated Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. 83 Fed. Reg. 39116
22 (Aug. 8, 2018). The Notice of Intent initiated a 30-day public scoping process during
23 which BLM solicited public comment on relevant issues to be addressed in a
24 supplemental environmental impact statement (“SEIS”) for the planning area. *Id.*
Based on the comments received during the public scoping process, the NEPA

1 contractor selected to assist in the preparation of the SEIS has prepared a draft Public
2 Scoping Analysis. BLM anticipates publishing the final Public Scoping Analysis
3 before the end of 2018.

4 The BLM Bakersfield Field Office anticipates publishing the draft SEIS in the
5 Federal Register for public review and comment in the second or third quarter of fiscal
6 year 2019. BLM will notice public meetings during the comment period to allow
7 additional opportunities for comment on the draft SEIS. Those meetings will likely be
8 held at locations in the Central Valley and Central Coast of California within the
9 planning area.

10 Respectfully submitted this 5th day of November, 2018.

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